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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 2, 2003.

  
Mary Ann Copas, Secretary

Applicant: Wolfgang Peter et al

Art Group: 1742

Serial No.: 09/651,797

Attorney File No.: 00-0542

Filed: August 30, 2002

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATMENT OF METALLIC  
WORKPIECES

Examiner: Sikyin Ip

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
JAN 15 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 10/02/2002**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims 17 - 20:

17. (New) An apparatus for the thermal treatment of metallic workpieces, said apparatus comprising:

a quenching chamber for receiving preheated workpieces and a quenching gas for cooling same; and

means for guiding individual substantially laminar flows of quenching